

Remarks/Arguments:

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-33 are pending; Claims 1-11 were previously canceled; Claims 12-30, 32, and 33 are amended herewith. Support for the amendments can be found at least at page 8, lines 21-26 of the specification. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the Final Office Action, Claims 12, 13, 18-21, 23, 24 and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,414,450, hereafter Oshino) in view of Eisaku (JP Pub. 63179770); Claims 14-16, 22, 25-27, and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Fujitsu (EP Pub. 0556071A2); and Claims 17 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Brooks et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,595,935, hereafter Brooks).

In regard to the rejection of Claims 12, 13, 18-21, 23, 24 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino in view of Eisaku, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), each of three requirements must be demonstrated. First, Oshino in view of Eisaku must teach or suggest each and every element recited in the claim.¹ Second, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to combine the references in a manner resulting in the claimed

¹ See MPEP § 2143.

invention.² Third, a reasonable probability of success must exist with respect to the proposed combination relied upon in the rejection.³

Claim 12, as amended, recites a ticket printing device including, *inter alia*, means for driving a ticket across a print head, the means for driving presenting a first face of the ticket to the print head, wherein said means for driving includes a block applied against a second face of the ticket, the second face being opposite to the first face, and the block including a first roller configured to cause the ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket.

Oshino does not teach or suggest at least the above-mentioned block feature of Claim 12. In Oshino, a platen is simply composed of a rubber roller along the longitudinal direction thereof.⁴ Nowhere does Oshino teach or suggest a block including a first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket. The platen 5, 41, 51 in Oshino does not have such a structure.

Eisaku does not cure the deficiencies of Oshino in this regard. Eisaku describes a printing roller having a number of split rollers.⁵ Each of the split rollers are fixed to a driving shaft.⁶ If the printing roller is in contact with a thermal head and the friction force between a split roller and the driving shaft is substantially smaller than the friction force between that split roller and the thermal head, then that split roller does not rotate even when the driving shaft is rotating.⁷ In other words, in Eisaku, the driving shaft directly rotates all of the split rollers, and the friction force between the split rollers and the thermal head causes some of the split rollers to stop rotating. Nowhere does Eisaku teach or suggest a block including a

² See id.

³ See id.

⁴ Col. 1, lines 18-19.

⁵ Abstract of Eisaku.

⁶ Abstract of Eisaku.

⁷ Constitution of Eisaku.

first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket. The printing roller 8 in Eisaku does not have such a structure.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Independent Claim 23 includes recitations similar to those in Claim 12 discussed above that do not, however, include “means.” Claims 13, 18-21, 24 and 29-32 depend on Claims 12 or 23. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 13, 18-21, 24 and 29-32 are also allowable at least for the reasons given above with respect to Claim 12 in addition to the novel and non-obvious features recited therein.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 14-16, 22, 25-27, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Fujitsu, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 14-16, 22, 25-27, and 33 depend on Claim 12 or 23. As discussed above with respect to Claim 12, Oshino in view of Eisaku does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claim 12, as amended. For example, Oshino in view of Eisaku does not teach or suggest at least a block including a first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket, as required by Claims 12 and 23, as amended. Fujitsu does not cure the deficiencies of Oshino and Eisaku in this regard. For example, even assuming Fujitsu could properly be combinable with Oshino and Eisaku, which Applicant disputes, Fujitsu does not teach or suggest a block including a first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket, as required by Claims 12 and 23, as amended.

In view of the failure of Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Fujitsu to teach or suggest the features of Claims 12 and 23, Applicant respectfully submits that Oshino

in view of Eisaku and further in view of Fujitsu does not render Claims 12 and 23 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As Claims 14-16, 22, 25-27, and 33 depend on Claims 12 or 23, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 14-16, 22, 25-27, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 17 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Brooks, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 17 and 28 depend on Claim 12 or 23. As discussed above with respect to Claims 12 and 23, Oshino in view of Eisaku does not teach or suggest each and every element recited in Claims 12 and 23. For example, Oshino in view of Eisaku does not teach or suggest at least a block including a first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket, as required by Claims 12 and 23, as amended. Brooks does not cure the deficiencies of Oshino and Eisaku in this regard. For example, even assuming Brooks could properly be combinable with Oshino and Eisaku, which Applicant disputes, Brooks does not teach or suggest a block including a first roller configured to cause a ticket to move and a second roller configured to be rotated only by the ticket, as required by Claims 12 and 23, as amended.

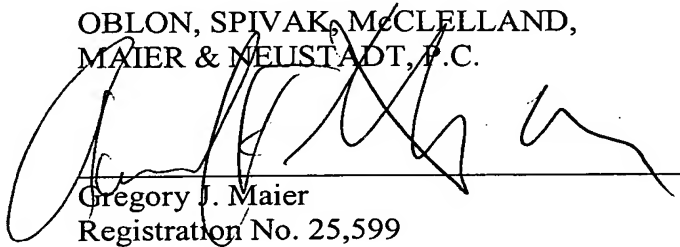
In view of the failure of Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Brooks to teach or suggest all the features of Claims 12 and 23, Applicant respectfully submits that Oshino in view of Eisaku and further in view of Brooks does not render Claims 12 and 23 obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As Claims 17 and 28 depend on Claims 12 or 23, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 17 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) also be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every one of Claims 12-33 defines patentable subject matter, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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